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MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

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MINUTES OF THE CHAPTER MEETING, FALL 1977, AT BOWDOIN COLLEGE

1. Our meeting was held on Saturday, October 15, at Bowdoin's Senior Center. Twenty-five members and 7 non-members attended. Priscilla McCarty coordinated the local arrangements for the meeting.
2. We were greeted by Robert Beckwith, chairman of the Bowdoin music department, who gave us an outline of the college's music program. Bowdoin has an active performance program, including a summer music school; it has a sizable collection of reproductions of early instruments, many of which were recently given to the college along with twelve cartons of Renaissance and Baroque music. The Bowdoin College library system (including departmental libraries) has approximately 500,000 volumes; the music library contains 4,000 books, 10,000 scores, and 4,500 recordings.
3. Tours of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Library and the music department followed.
4. Chairman Robert L. Evensen called the business meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
 - a. Reina Paananen Hart reported on the meeting of chapter representatives with the MLA Board, which took place at Santa Barbara in August during the national convention. Among the topics discussed were: deposit of chapter archives at the Library of Congress (LC has agreed to take all chapter archives but cannot do so until it has more space); chapter dues--Clara Steuermann is gathering data on chapter dues which should be available at the spring meeting; an endowment fund to finance MLA activities; a new Handbook for Officers and Committee Chairpersons, which proposes that in future all chapter officers must be members of the national body.
 - b. Robert Cunningham, chairman of the Continuing Education Committee, announced a music cataloging workshop on OCLC and the MARC score and sound recording formats, to be held December 3, 1977, at the University of Connecticut. (See the report on this workshop later in this Newsletter.)
 - c. Mary Davidson announced the program for the national MLA conference to be held in Boston, February 27 through March 4, 1978.
 - d. Robert Evensen announced that the chapter's spring meeting will be held at Amherst College in April, 1978.

e. The chapter voted to accept the offer of the Boston Public Library to house the chapter's archives until LC can accept them.

f. After some discussion, a sense of the meeting was taken concerning the chapter's dues structure. Members were asked to indicate which of two general dues structures they preferred: high membership fee/low meeting registration fee, or vice versa. The vote was ten for the former, seven for the latter.

g. The business meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

5. Following lunch, we heard a brief concert on early instruments by Bowdoin students and faculty members.

6. The speaker for the afternoon's program on the new copyright law was James B. Vassar, Senior Examiner, Copyright Office, Library of Congress. He gave a brief history of copyright in the United States, describing the 1909 law and the history of the new legislation before going into the provisions of the new act. Among the significant changes:

- Common-law copyright is abolished; statutory protection begins with the creation of the work; unpublished works may now receive statutory protection
- The term of copyright for all new works is life of the author plus 50 years, meaning that all works of an author will now pass into the public domain at the same time
- The concept of fair use, formerly a common-law exception to statutory copyright, is now recognized in the law, but not defined there
- The law contains a section (Sec. 108) specifically permitting libraries to photocopy certain things under certain conditions; but music is excluded from most provisions of the section
- Guidelines have been worked out by interested parties for the interpretation of the fair use provision; these are not part of the law, but are contained in the Congressional reports that accompany the law, and will be given weight by the courts in trying infringement suits



DON'T FORGET!

MLA NATIONAL CONFERENCE in Boston, February 27-March 4.

THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING at Amherst College, April 15.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ORDER THE NEW GROVE DICTIONARY at special prepublication prices. Call 1-800-424-5112.

REPORT ON THE OCLC CATALOGING WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 3, 1977

This very successful workshop, sponsored by the Chapter's Continuing Education Committee, was held at the University of Connecticut, with Joe Scott as host. Karl Van Ausdal was the principal speaker. He was assisted by Donald Seibert, and many helpful comments were offered by Kitty Skrobela and Laima Mockus (Ms. Mockus represented NELINET). Many questions were answered, but unfortunately at least as many (it seemed) were left open, awaiting decisions of interpretation from OCLC and/or the Library of Congress. It was suggested that if we music catalogers, who are currently working out the "bugs" in the formats on our own, can agree on questions of interpretation, we may be able to persuade LC to adopt these interpretations.

Here are a few (and only a few) of the most important specific points that were touched upon at the workshop:

- OCLC now has programs which can change Type a records to Types c and j. To report a Type a record that needs to be changed, simply send the OCLC number on a scrap card with the legend, "Type change from a to c (or j)." Do not input a duplicate record.
- When inputting old LC cataloging, update headings (including subjects) and uniform titles to conform with current LC practice, but do not update descriptive elements. Add publisher's plate number and contents note if the LC record lacks them.
- In fields 240 and 245 (uniform title and title), space after periods (e.g. Symphony, no. 2--not Symphony, no.2). In field 245, put enough of the title in subfield a to make the work identifiable (e.g. Symphony no. 7 in A major, op. 92--not Symphony #b no. 7 ...) These practices will make retrieval much easier, particularly when and if we get uniform-title search.
- In field 262, input two #c's when you enter alternate manufacturer's numbers (in the cases when the serial number on the record box and the numbers on the individual records are different).
- Note the revised subfield codes in field 305: #a: extent of item; #b: other physical details; #c dimensions (i.e. 4 discs. #b 33 1/3 rpm. stereo. #c 12 in.).
- Write to NELINET if you want to see such things as uniform-title search (beyond #a) and performer-title search. If any of these things are to be implemented, we must exert pressure on OCLC.

Joe Scott hopes to persuade NELINET to publish a detailed report of the results of the workshop, possibly as a Technical Memorandum.





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